

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, in this application.

1. (currently amended) A method for treating a bone or cartilage disease unrelated to autoimmune diseases comprising administering Use of PTX3 or one of its functional derivatives to a patient for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of the bone or cartilage disease[[s]].
2. (currently amended) A method for treating a bone or cartilage disease unrelated to autoimmune diseases comprising administering Use of PTX3 or one of its functional derivatives, in combination with TSG-6, to a patient for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of the bone or cartilage disease[[s]].
3. (original) Use of PTX3, or one of its functional derivatives, in combination with TSG-6, for the preparation of a medicament useful for improving fertility in women who need it.
4. (currently amended) The method [[Use]] according to claim 1, wherein said in which what is meant by PTX3 is any long pentraxin PTX3, that is to say, irrespective of its natural (human or animal), recombinant or synthetic origin.
5. (currently amended) The method [[Use]] according to claim 1, wherein said in which what is meant by derivative is a functional analogue of long pentraxin PTX3 bearing one or more mutations, deletions, insertions, or post-transductional modifications and conserving the functional ability to bind TSG-6.
6. (currently amended) The method [[Use]] according to claim 1, wherein said in which the long pentraxin-PTX3 is human long pentraxin PTX3.
7. (currently amended) The method [[Use]] according to claim 1, wherein in which said diseases are selected from the group consisting of: osteoarthritis; osteoarthritis;

degenerative diseases of the joints; collagen deficiencies; cartilage or bone diseases characterised by endochondrial ossifications; [[:]] primary arthritis, including, for example, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, undifferentiated chronic arthritis, and polyarthritis; ~~secondary arthritis of autoimmune origin, including, for example, systemic lupus erythematosus arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, Crohn's disease arthritis; arthritis of dysmetabolic origin, including, for example, monosodium urate arthropathy, pyrophosphate arthropathy, calcium oxalate arthropathy; infectious arthritis, arthritis due to osteoporosis, aseptic osteonecrosis, and~~ benign and malignant bone tumours.

8. (original) Combination comprising PTX3 or one of its derivatives and TSG-6.

9. (original) Use of the combination according to claim 8 as a medicament.

10. (original) Pharmaceutical composition containing as its active ingredient the combination according to claim 8 and at least one pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and/or diluent.

11. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of degenerative diseases of the joints; collagen deficiencies; cartilage or bone diseases characterised by endochondrial ossifications; primary arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile arthritis, undifferentiated chronic arthritis, and polyarthritis.

12. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said disease is selected from the group consisting of degenerative diseases of the joints; collagen deficiencies; cartilage or bone diseases characterised by endochondrial ossifications; arthritis of dysmetabolic origin, monosodium urate arthropathy, pyrophosphate arthropathy, calcium oxalate arthropathy; infectious arthritis, arthritis due to osteoporosis, aseptic osteonecrosis, and benign and malignant bone tumours.

13. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said PTX3 is of natural origin.

14. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said PTX3 is of recombinant or synthetic origin.

15. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said PTX3 is human long pentraxin PTX3 of natural origin.

16. (new) The method according to claim 1, wherein said PTX3 is human long pentraxin PTX3 of recombinant or synthetic origin.